

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 180610

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ORIGIN PM-03

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

CINCLANTFLT

CNO

SECDEF

USDELMC

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

NAVSUPPACT NAPLES

JCS

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 180610

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT, GR

SUBJECT: LOCATION OF COMMANDER CARRIER GROUP TWO STAFF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 180610

REFS: (A) ROME 10529; (B) STATE 164131; (C) ROME 9424;
(D) STATE 147154

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES GOI'S RESPONSIVENESS ON THIS

QUESTION. HOWEVER, PARA 1 B, REFTEL A SUGGESTS THAT SOME CLARIFICATION MAY BE NECESSARY, AND THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION IS PROVIDED FOR THE EMBASSY'S GUIDANCE.

(A) THE CARRIER GROUP STAFF IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN AN AFLOAT STAFF WITH ITS OFFICES, RECORDS, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT LOCATED AT ALL TIMES IN THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER SERVING AS FLAGSHIP FOR THE REAR ADMIRAL IN COMMAND. IN CARRYING OUT ITS OPERATIONAL MISSION THE STAFF WILL HAVE NO GREATER CONNECTION WITH NAPLES IN THE FUTURE THAN IT HAS HAD IN THE PAST. THE STAFF WILL NOT BE TRANSFERRED FROM ONE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN AND WILL REMAIN AFLOAT. THERE HAS BEEN NO ASHORE STAFF FACILITY IN ATHENS AND NONE WILL BE REQUIRED IN NAPLES.

(B) THE STAFF HAS BEEN EMBARKED IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT AIRCRAFT CARRIERS IN THE PAST YEAR, ALL OF WHICH HAVE SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME IN ITALIAN PORTS. NONE OF THESE CARRIERS HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE "HOMEPORTED" IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

(C) THE PROBLEM, THEREFORE, IS TO FIND A LOCATION WHERE THE FAMILIES OF STAFF MEMBERS MAY RESIDE IN REASONABLE PROXIMITY TO THE OPERATING AREAS OF THE ASSIGNED FLAGSHIPS. THE ASSIGNMENT OF A "HOMEPORT" FOR AFLOAT UNITS, E.G. CARGRU TWO, IS AN INTERNAL US ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE FOR AUTHORIZING THE MOVEMENT OF FAMILIES AND NOT TO ESTABLISH AN ASHORE FACILITY.

2. AT PRESENT, 45 DEPENDENTS FROM 17 FAMILIES RESIDE IN ATHENS. ONLY THOSE FAMILIES OF STAFF MEMBERS WHOSE PROSPECTIVE ROTATION IS IN SEPTEMBER 1976 OR LATER WILL BE ENTITLED UNDER OUR JOINT TRAVEL REGULATIONS TO MOVE TO NAPLES AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE. FIVE FAMILIES TOTALING 11 DEPENDENTS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE AT THIS TIME FOR THIS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 180610

MOVE. WHILE A FEW STAFF MEMBERS MIGHT EXTEND THEIR TOURS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY FOR THEIR FAMILIES, THE TOTAL FIGURE WOULD REMAIN RELATIVELY SMALL, OR ABOUT 25 DEPENDENTS.

3. THE REMAINDER OF THE STAFF MEMBERS WITH FAMILIES IN ATHENS WILL BE ISSUED ORDERS SO THAT THEIR FAMILIES MAY MOVE FROM ATHENS TO THE US. THE MEMBERS THEMSELVES WILL BE RELIEVED OF DUTY ON THE STAFF WHEN DUE FOR ROTATION DURING THE COMING YEAR.

4. STAFF MEMBERS WITHOUT FAMILIES OVERSEAS HAVE HAD NO ASSOCIATION WITH ATHENS FOR OVER ONE YEAR WHILE THE PORT HAS BEEN CLOSED AND WILL HAVE NONE WITH NAPLES EXCEPT

OCCASIONAL SHORE LEAVE.

5. NEW OFFICERS AND MEN REPORTING TO THE STAFF, SUCH AS REAR ADMIRAL CARROLL, WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE THEIR FAMILIES FROM THE US TO NAPLES. THE NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS MAY GRADUALLY INCREASE TO THE NUMBERS INDICATED IN REFERENCE D, AS NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE STAFF.

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6. NEW STAFF OFFICERS WILL BE ORDERED TO THE COMMANDER CARRIER GROUP TWO STAFF FOR DUTY WITH COMMANDER SIXTH FLEET STAFF. THE USG DOES NOT INTEND TO INITIATE ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OR DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER, AND COULD IF ASKED, SAY THAT THE MOVES OF FAMILIES ARE ROUTINE

TO BE NEAR HEADS OF FAMILIES WHO ARE ASSIGNED TO A SHIPBOARD STAFF.

7. IF ASKED, FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE IS RECOMMENDED FOR EMBASSY USE IN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q: IS THERE A CARRIER TASK GROUP WHICH WAS FORMERLY "HOMEPORTED" IN GREECE NOW HOMEPORTED IN NAPLES?

A: NO CARRIER TASK GROUP WAS EVER HOMEPORTED IN GREECE, BUT DEPENDENTS OF A CARRIER TASK GROUP STAFF WERE AUTHORIZED TO RESIDE IN GREECE TO BE CLOSE TO HEADS OF FAMILIES ASSIGNED IN CARRIERS TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED TO CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 180610

THE MED ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS. MOST OF THESE DEPENDENTS WILL BE ROTATED BACK TO THE US, BUT A VERY FEW FAMILIES WILL MOVE TO ITALY. THE STAFF, HOWEVER, WILL CONTINUE TO BE EMBARKED IN A CARRIER.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: IF THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE FOREGOING INFORMATION MIGHT CLARIFY THE SITUATION, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT THE ABOVE POINTS BE DISCUSSED WITH APPROPRIATE MFA OFFICIALS WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING GOI AGREEMENT TO THE TRANSFER OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS FROM ATHENS TO NAPLES. IN DOING SO, EMBASSY SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT NEITHER THE CARRIER TASK GROUP NOR ANY OF ITS PERSONNEL INCLUDING CARGRU TWO STAFF WILL BE ASSIGNED ASHORE IN NAPLES. INGERSOLL

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